

Thesis Writing

- A thesis is a statement of what you plan to argue in your paper.
- For this paper assignment,
 - A thesis is not necessary to get a decent grade on your paper.
 - A thesis, like good organization or clear writing, helps your paper be better. It is a tool to write a better paper, not an end unto itself.
 - Most students either do not write a thesis or write a thesis that is very defective.
 - The best papers almost always have a thesis.
- For some types of papers, a thesis is absolutely necessary.

What makes a good thesis for THIS paper?

- Explains clearly what you plan to **argue** in the paper.
- Focuses on the documents and not the larger history.
- Connects the documents to that larger history.
- Precise and concise. A good thesis is usually one or two sentences long.
- Avoids evaluation.
- Focuses on analysis.